



A LYNCHING IN ALEXANDRIA.

Brutalizing Scenes Almost at the Nation's Capital

WHITE MEN BECOME FIENDS.

They Revel in the Blood of their Victim--Colored Men Organize and Are Dispersed.

Mayor Simpson's Duplicity.—The Guarantees of the Law Cast Aside.

ALEXANDRIA, Va., Aug. 8.—Dragged for a third of a mile through the streets of this city, with a rope around his neck, a howling mob of 2,000 people, hooting and jeering and discharging firearms about him, Ben Thomas, a colored youth of twenty years, was hanged to-night at midnight to a lamp post on Leadbeater corner. Indignant citizens in this tragic manner meted out punishment for an indecent assault committed yesterday on Lillie, the eight-year-old daughter of Mr. Edward Clarke. The affair was accompanied with many revolting incidents, and for the second time within two years this ancient metropolis of the Old Dominion, almost within the shadow of the National Capitol, has contributed a genuine lynching sensation for the country.

Certainly but once before during many years, and that when the colored man McCoy was lynched for a similar crime, has excitement run high in Alexandria. The assurance of a lynching during the night was enforced by rumors that colored men were preparing to offer armed resistance if an attempt was made to take Thomas from the jail. The assault was the absorbing topic of conversation. Early in the day citizens began to arm themselves. The stock of firearms and ammunition in this city was exhausted, and expeditions were made to Washington to increase the supply.

CONGREGATED ON STREET CORNERS. The enraged citizens began to congregate in small groups about the street corners as soon as it grew dark. These groups gradually made their way about 11 o'clock towards the jail. The talk was openly made that the colored man was to be taken from his cell by the mob. At the same time there were excited reports that colored men were gathering on the outskirts of the city to make an invasion. However, by 11:30 o'clock fully 2,000 determined men had gathered about the jail. Their presence was marked by a notable calm, and there was comparatively little demonstration, save for the occasional firing of a shot or an exclamation to "give him up."

As the mob grew and its determination was apparent, some of the prominent citizens of the place appeared and tried to persuade the gathering to disperse. Finally, when it was plain that a demand would soon be made for the opening of the jail, Mayor Simpson addressed the excited men, counseling delay until to-morrow, when he promised to immediately call the Grand Jury, and secure a trial in court. "If they do not to-morrow find an indictment and declare Thomas guilty, I will myself lead you to lynch this man," declared the Mayor.

This did not appease the men who were determined on Thomas' life. The mob surged up to the door of the jail. Mayor Simpson being whisked away from his place as though he was nothing more than a feather. The officers on guard in the jail refused to deliver the prisoner. A long, heavy plank was jammed against the door, which quickly gave away. In the melee that followed the entrance into the jail, which is the corner of Princess and St. Asaph streets, Chief of Police James Webster was knocked over and considerably, though not seriously, hurt.

proceeded down St. Asaph street for a third of a block and hid in the vestibule of the residence of a Mr. Sinner. It was not long before lynchers convinced themselves that the escaping prisoner was the one they wanted. Several men darted after him and dragged him from the vestibule. The rope was again placed about his neck, the thoroughly frightened culprit moaning and yelling all the time. In the scuffle that attended these proceedings nearly all the clothing was torn from his body.

Then the strange procession started down St. Asaph street. Several citizens held the rope by which Thomas was being led to his doom, and the thousands of spectators were following close behind. Down St. Asaph street to King street the mob moved rapidly to Leadbeater's corner, before a convenient post was found for the execution. There were policemen protesting against the summary punishment, but their words were unheeded.

In the morning the rope was thrown over the lamp post, willing hands pulled at the loose end, and in a few moments Thomas' life went out. The body, after it had been riddled with bullets, was removed to an undertaker's establishment, where it was viewed by thousands.

Soon afterward the mob dispersed, and there was little disorder about the city. The colored people of the city, who had threatened resistance, were thoroughly cowed, and no demonstrations were made on their part.

EXCITEMENT EARLY IN DAY. Considerable excitement reigned in the lower end of town early this morning. This was the forerunner of to-night's lynching, and was occasioned by the appearance of a large and well organized body of colored men, who had gathered from various parts of the city when it became known that Thomas was locked up at the police station on the charge of attempting to criminally assault upon Lillie Clarke. The colored men claimed that they had information that an attempt would be made to lynch Thomas, and they did make to lynch Thomas, and they did make to lynch Thomas, and they did make to lynch Thomas.

Lieut. Smith reported the matter to the Mayor, and was instructed to disperse the mob, and arrest all who refused to obey the law. The Lieutenant returned, and with a squad of policemen composed of Officers Bettis, Beach, Young, Hall, Dean, Howson, Spinks, Lyle, and Atkinson, met the mob, and ordered them to disperse. This they refused to do whereupon Alfred Green, James Turley, Edward Gibson, Alfred Mason, Harry McDonald, Robert Buckner, Allen Carter, John Haskins, James Alexander, Edward Jayne, Richard Washington, and Thomas Elzy were placed under arrest. Several of the above when searched, were found to be armed with pistols, butcher knives, razors and stones.

After the arrests were made the Negroes seemed to think that no attempt would be made to lynch Thomas. They slowly separated and went to their homes. The prisoners were taken before the Mayor this morning, when Turley, Gibson, Green, Mason, and McDonald were fined \$20 each for carrying concealed weapons and inciting a riot. The others were fined \$10 each on the charge of inciting a riot. After their cases had been disposed of the case of Benjamin Thomas was called. There was a decided stir in the court-room when Thomas was brought in between two officers and lodged in the dock. The witnesses against him were Mr. and Mrs. Clarke and Lillie, the eight-year-old girl upon whom the assault was attempted.

he seized her, drawing her within the house, and then attempted to assault her. Becoming frightened, she broke from his embrace and fled to her home where she related the occurrence to her mother. A complaint was at once made and Thomas arrested a short time afterward by Policemen Knight and Wilkinson.

After considering the facts elicited, Mayor Simpson remanded Thomas to jail to await the action of the Grand Jury. Thomas was removed to jail at 12 o'clock, and was followed by a number of his race. Feeling against him, and the authorities were apprehensive of trouble. Deputy City Sergeant Smith, who, in the absence of Sergeant William H. Smith, has charge of the jail, called on Chief of Police Webster in the afternoon and requested that a squad of police be stationed at the jail at night. The request was granted. In addition to the Chief of Police and four policemen, who were ordered to guard the jail, the Mayor appointed a special squad of ten to act. This force, however, as to-night's determined and fair proved, was wholly inadequate to prevent the lynching.

Lillie Clarke is an exceedingly intelligent girl for her age, and the straightforward manner in which she related the occurrence this morning impressed many persons who were within hearing distance of her.

TO THE FOOLISH FILIPINO.

The Grandest Aggregation—Good Things and Bad Things.

You do not know what a good thing you are missing by not wanting to become citizens of this grand country of ours. There isn't anything like it under the sun. You ought to send a delegation over here to see us—this land of the free—land of churches and 100,000 licensed saloons, Bibles, forts and guns; houses of prayer and licensed houses of prostitution; millionaires and paupers; theologians and thieves; libertines and liars; Christians and chingangs; politicians and poverty; schools and scoundrels; trusts and tramps; virtue and vice.

A land where you can get a good Bible for 15 cents and a bad drink of whiskey for 5 cents; where we have men in congress with three wives and a lot in the penitentiaries for having two wives; where some men make a sage out of their wives and some make a eat them raw; where we make bolognasausage out of dogs cannot beef out of horses and sick cows and corpses out of the people who eat it; where we put a man in jail for not having the means of support and on the rooftop for asking for a job of work; where we license bawdy houses and fine men for telling the truth on the street; where we have a congress of 400 men to make laws and a supreme court of nine men to set them aside; where good whiskey makes bad men and bad men make good whiskey; where newspapers are paid for suppressing the truth and made rich for telling a lie; where professors draw their convictions from the same source they do their salaries; where preachers are paid \$25,000 a year to dodge the devil and tickle the ears of the wealthy; where business consists in getting property in any way that won't land you in the penitentiary; where trusts hold you up and poverty holds you down; where men vote for what they do not want for fear they will not get what they do want by voting for it; where the girl who goes wrong is made an outcast and her male partner flourishes as a gentleman; where women wear false hair and the men dock their horses' tails; where political wirepullers has displaced the patriot statesman; where men vote for a thing one day and curse it 365 days; where we have prayers on the floor of our national capitol and whiskey in the cellar; where we spend \$5000 to bury a congressman who is rich and \$10 to put away a working-man who is poor; where to be virtuous

is to be lonesome and and to be honest is to be called a crank; where we sit on the safety valve of energy and pull wide open the throttle conscience; where gold is a substance—the one thing sought for—and God is a waste basket for our better thoughts and resolutions; where we pay \$15,000 for a dog and 15 cents a down to a poor woman for making shirts; where we teach the untutored Indian eternal life from the Bible and fill him with whisky; where we put a man in jail for stealing a loaf of bread and in congress for stealing a railroad; where the check-book talks, sin walks in broad daylight, justice is asleep, crime runs amuck, corruption permeates our whole social fabric and the devil laughs from every street corner.

Come to us, Fillies, we've got the grandest aggregation of good things and bad things, big things and little things, cold things and hot things, soft things and hard things, all sizes, varieties and colors, ever exhibited under one tent. We've got more guns, Bibles and whisky than any two shows on earth.

If you don't come, we'll fetch you. Of course when you fellows fine us you will have to stop asking each other. You will be our meat then. Our people won't stand to see a lot of good meat wasted that way. You can eat each other's substance that makes the flesh. You can eat dogged bolognas or canned horse meat. It will be almost as healthy and will expand our meat trade. Come to our arms!—Buzz Saw, Journal.

VISITORS WERE QUARANTINED.

Plans for Their Reception Frustrated. Likely not to Come Here—Miss Van De Villers in Boston.

For the past two or three weeks there have been elaborate preparations going on for the entertainment of the throng of visitors due here last Saturday from Hampton. These strange-ers who had congregated at Buck Run Beach with the intention of proceeding to Richmond were from Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Washington and Virginia; but the sudden and unwelcome report of yellow-fever in Old Point, which quarantined that vicinity, made every one eager to proceed directly to their own home at the earliest moment.

This news was received here with utter disappointment and a damper was put to all preparations at this end. About fifteen have arrived so far; among whom are Miss Staunton, of New York; Miss Smallwood, of Boston and other names I have been thus far unable to obtain.

MISS VAN DE VILLERS IN BOSTON.

Miss Susie Kyrie Yessitter Van De Villers crossed the ocean and is now reported to be in Boston, but as this, she is probably in New York. I have been informed that the lady who is handling Miss Villers' correspondence is responsible for the following:

"Her lady is not likely to so fortunate as to get as far as Virginia on this trip, owing to an early engagement with a star concert company in Philadelphia."

I also have the honor of announcing for my lady her desire of not wishing to be confronted with any public reception should she visit Virginia, she will come as a private guest.

WILL SHE SING HERE?

At this stage of proceedings, if Miss Villers' statement is to be relied upon, it looks as if Richmond will not have the opportunity of hearing Miss Van De Villers.

WANT A GRAND CIRCLE.

There are some gentlemen connected with the Clericonian Literary Society who are drawing up papers to bring before that body next month, suggesting the formation of a Grand Literary of Virginia, thus calling for an annual convention of a Grand Circle.

ENTERTAINMENT.

An entertainment and musical were given last night at the home of Mr. Edward W. Stephens in honor of Miss Katie Smallwood, of Boston, and Miss Stanton, of New York. During the evening an interesting programme was rendered by excellent talent. Reception committee for the occasion were Misses Mary Harper, Rosa E. Banks, Messrs. George E. Taylor and Ed. W. Stephens.

SEEK FOR LAUDANUM.

A woman giving her name as Annie O'Connell fell on the corner of 1st and Clay streets last Monday night about 7:30 o'clock from the effect of laudanum. She was carried to the drug-store of Thompson and Benson, on Leigh St., where the ambulance was summoned with Drs. Davis and Cunningham in charge.

The case was a stubborn one and the doctors worked faithfully for an hour and a half; after which she was taken to the hospital for further treatment. She stated that she took the drug with suicidal intent.

DR. GRAHAM SAYS A WORD.

THE VIRGINIA BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION ENDORSED.

Enthusiasm all Along the Line.

Virginia Seminary Being Supported.

Editor, Richmond PLANET:

Allow me through your widely read paper to say a word to the friends of the Virginia Baptist State Convention. Let me assure them first of all that there is no danger of that body being defeated in its objects. We know this state. We are in communicative touch with the brethren throughout the state and are consequently satisfied as to our strength. Here and there some good brother, apparently with us at Lexington, gets talked over to the other side, but these things do not move men of fixed purpose.

MOVE FORWARD.

Let no one become alarmed because somebody resigns from positions to which they were elected at Lexington. There are plenty on our side who will lead fill their places. Those good brethren have a right to resign if they can't stand in the battle of right.

Let us move on to the watch-word: Forward! March! What have we to fear? The people are with us, a great majority of the pastors of the state are with us, God is with us; what need have we to fear? Would you like to hear the names of the conventional and associational bodies that have reaffirmed allegiance to the State Convention, Virginia Seminary and President Hayes since our sitting at Lexington? Well now, just stop and let me show you:

A LAND-SLIDE FOR THE RIGHT.

In June, the Women's State Baptist Educational Convention met in Richmond and endorsed us and sent us \$132.00 on the Seminary debt; in July, the Flatop Baptist Association met in the western part of the state with 33 churches, and endorsed us; in July, the Bannister Baptist Association with 40 churches endorsed us, and like the Flatop, sent liberal contributions for Virginia Seminary; in August, Southside Rappahannock Baptist Association with a large number of churches endorsed us and sent a handsome sum for the Seminary; in August, the great Mattaponi Baptist Association with 68 churches endorsed us and sent us nearly one hundred dollars for Virginia Seminary; in July, Amherst District Sunday School Convention endorsed us and sent money for Virginia Seminary; in July, the Mattaponi District Sunday School Convention with 40 schools endorsed us and sent up money for the Seminary; in August, Bedford County Sunday School Convention endorsed us and sent money for the Seminary.

WHAT HAVE WE TO FEAR?

I ask again, what have we to fear? Only one body has spoken against us and that is the Rappahannock Sunday School Convention, which I am told, endorsed the splitters' association after a hard fight. Do you hear me brethren; stay in the field until the battle is over.

You ought to have been at the old Mattaponi Association. The friends on the other side were there, but to no good for them. Grand Master, Rev. W. L. Taylor, Revs. G. C. Coleman of Manchester, son of that great headlight, Charles S. Coleman of Halifax Co.; F. P. Diggs, W. J. Thompson, E. C. Thompson, G. L. Dixon, C. H. Phillips, J. H. A. Cyrus and that giant of a preacher, Rev. S. Todd set the woods on fire.

REV. TAYLOR IN THE BREACH.

Had you heard the speech of Rev. W. L. Taylor, the Grand Master of the True Reformers, the man who stands at the head of the greatest Negro business organization on earth, your soul would have leaped forth for joy. He was for the State Convention, the Virginia Seminary, Hayes and the Negro Publishing House at Nashville, Tenn. Bro. W. F. Graham said a little something too.

Listen out for me next week, Mr. Editor.

W. F. GRAHAM.

THE RAMBLER.

The editor of the Virginia Department of the Christian Banner in its issue of the 28th ult., puts certain questions concerning the modus operandi at the convention in Lexington, Va. He wants to know, "Was Jehovah in the Convention?" The editor ought to know; he is the Corresponding Secretary. He ought to know whether he corresponded with Jehovah or not. I ask the editor what about these min-

utes, one a secretary of a national convention, one a secretary of a state convention, others occupying prominent positions, who took the railroad train on Sunday morning for Staunton, Lynchburg, Richmond and other points, was Jehovah with them? Ought such ministers to preach, "Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy," that a note made on Sunday is null and void, that a contract made on Sunday does not stand in law, and be allowed to be pastors of churches?

ANOTHER QUESTION.

A Baptist contemporary says, "Many of the visitors to the B. Y. P. U. Convention visited the grounds of the University and they were loud in their praise of the new buildings."

We ask, were they loud in their condemnation of the color-line being drawn in said Convention? Did they loudly condemn the act of endeavoring to force the editor's wife and other ladies into the gallery corner of the auditorium, although the resurrection was nigh? Were they loud in their condemnation of non-cooperation with B. Y. P. U.'s of color? Were they loud in declaring that the junior editor of a Baptist paper, published in Richmond, Va., a member of the Executive Committee, and chairman of the committee on programme ought to inform his colored subscribers whether he had a hand in executing the color-line and why? No black young people were put on the programme.

D. G. Jacob, a young black man, and president of the colored B. Y. P. U. of Virginia was present. Was he put on the programme? Is that co-operation in the name of Jehovah?

A FUNNY MOVEMENT.

That is funny, Danville preachers moving heaven and earth to split, and one of them a recording secretary records the doings of the splitters, calling upon the brotherhood for peace. Such out Herds Tammany with all of its manoeuvres.

A notice from Danville, Va., says, "The Convention held at Lexington, May, 1899, was in such a condition as to prohibit the usual annual meeting of the Ministers' Association of Virginia." How could that prohibition be, when the constitution, article 7 says, "This Association shall meet annually on the day prior to the opening of the Virginia Baptist State Convention?" "Oh! the moss-covered bucket which hung in the well!"

TWO EXTREMES.

A writer, W. H. C. in the Virginia Baptist carries his readers up to where mercury freezes, and down to where ether boils, in his admiration of co-operation. His plan of co-operation was recently shown. He lost his library, instead of appealing to his three churches for aid, he appeals to the public in general for aid to procure a library.

That is the plan with many zealous co-operators, instead of doing for themselves in their own household they look for others to do for them. A judicious movement is to do all you can for yourself among your own people, then, if necessary, appeal abroad. W. H. C., we will co-operate with you to keep the yellow fever from your church during the Association.

ARBITRARY ACTION.

The S. S. Board, arbitrarily, took the coming convention from Lynchburg to Portsmouth. Too much Seminary for them! Lynchburg. Well, they let from black Jack near the Seminary, to be confronted by yellow Jack in tide-water.

Well, a heavenly timepassing shot gun quarantines, to reach a State Convention with only 42 Sunday Schools in it as members.

AN APPEAL.

To the Baptist Pastors, Churches, Sunday Schools and Missionary Societies in the State of Va.:

Greeting:

Your attention is respectfully called to consider the condition of our foreign mission work. The great commission, "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature," confronts us and fills with emotion our heart and stirs our zeal to the extent that we are forced to send forth this appeal reminding you of the awful fact. Africa has yet to be redeemed for God. We have yet an important part to play in the saving of her sons and daughters. Have we shirked our duty? The needs of our missionaries among Africa's perishing millions are known to us.

In our mind's eye we see and hear them crying, "Come over into Macedonia and help us." Shall we not help them? Has not the time come for us to begin? And shall we not adopt a system for giving to so worthy a cause? Send it may be, we shall gratefully acknowledge the receipt of the same.

Send all contributions to:

Rev. W. F. GRAHAM, D.D.,
Chairman of F. M. B.,
243 W. Jackson St., Richmond, Va.,
or, Rev. T. H. JOHNSON,
Treasurer of F. M. B.,
Monacaiste, Va.

A GREAT GATHERING

The Membership of the Afro-American Council.

FUTURE POLICY OF THE RACE.

Thoughtful Men Needed.

The meeting of the National Afro-American Council to be held in Chicago, August 17-19 promises to be the most important yet held by this organization. The meetings that were held last year in Rochester and Washington were for the purpose of effecting a strong and influential protective organization that would be offset by some of the most intelligent and influential men and women of the race. In this the Council has succeeded admirably. The Afro-American Council is now the recognized National Protective Organization of the race. It is considered by the President, leading Members of Congress, some of our ablest jurists and many of the leading officials of the states throughout the Union; also by our religious denominations, press and benevolent societies.

The approaching session will doubtless inaugurate a policy which will be pursued by the race for years to come; therefore we need at this session the most thoughtful men and women of the race—persons interested in the development of the race along all lines, leaders who are not in search of notoriety but who are deeply interested in our future welfare.

MEMBERSHIP.

The membership of the National Afro-American Council is composed as follows:

1st. All persons who hold life membership.

2nd. Council Delegates, representing duly accredited Local Councils.

3rd. Affiliated Delegates representing organizations of similar plans and purposes co-operating with the Afro-American Council.

Sec. 2. Every Local Afro-American Council shall be entitled to representations in the National Council by delegates elected on a basis of one delegate to every fifty (50) members said delegates to qualify upon presentation of credentials and payment of ten cents for each member so represented. Provided, however, that any Local Council having less than fifty members shall be entitled to one vote upon presentation of credentials and payment of the annual tax of five dollars.

Sec. 3. Religious and secular organizations which have for their aim and work the mental and moral elevation of the race, and which desire to co-operate with the National Council may be represented by affiliated delegates, not more than two delegates to each organization. Said delegates shall have the right to vote upon payment of Five Dollars for each delegate.

Sec. 4. Editors of Afro-American newspapers, and Principals of Academic Schools and colleges, may be admitted to membership in the National Council and be entitled to a vote upon presentation of credentials and payment of the annual tax of \$5.00.

Any organization, religious or otherwise, which has for its object the amelioration of the condition of the Negroes in America, and is willing to co-operate with the National Afro-American Council, is requested to send delegates to our Chicago meeting. If the organization is unprepared to send a delegate it can send a letter to the President, signifying a willingness to unite with the council.

SPECIAL RATES.

A special rate of a fare and a third (full fare going and one-third of full fare returning) has been granted on the certificate plan by all the railroads entering Chicago.

All delegates must secure a return certificate at the time of purchasing their ticket.

Send all communications to Mrs. Ida Wells Barnett or the undersigned to 3929 Princeton Ave., Chicago, Ill.

Signed:

A. WALTERS,

President National Afro-American Council.

A DOUBLE MARRIAGE.

CURSVILLE, BUCKINGHAM CO., VA., August 2, 1899.

The marriage of Mr. W. M. Washington to Miss Virginia Page, took place at the home of the bride-to-day at 8:30 P. M.

Rev. D. M. Miller performed the ceremony. At 9:30 P. M., the marriage of Mr. John Washington (brother to Mr. W. M. Washington) to Miss Julia Elridge took place at the home of the bride, a distance of only 500 yards from the other bridal affair.

Groomsmen: S. J. Ellis, James Ellis, George Ellis, Wiley Washington. Retirements were served. They were repaired to Miss Page's residence. The happy couples will leave for their future home, Fire Creek, W. Va., on the 8th inst.

If your friends are away from the city, send them the PLANET.